

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8-12, 22, 29 and 30. The Applicant herein amends claims 8 and 11 to place them in independent, allowable form, and amended claims 2-7 to depend from allowed claim 22. Claim 22 was amended to correct antecedent basis of "axial direction". Claims 1, 13-21 and 23-28 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Applicant believes that the claims are now in form for allowance, and the outstanding §102 and §103 rejections are now moot due to the cancellation of the claims and amendments. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 18-2284 of Piper Rudnick, duplicate copy attached.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims. The Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

PIPER RUDNICK LLP

By:

Joel H. Bootzin

Registration No. 42,343

Attorney for Applicant

September 18, 2003
P.O. Box 64807
Chicago, IL 60664-0807
(312) 368-7072